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NEWS FROM ALL OVER IMPERIAL MISSOURI

Interesting Happenings Which Have Taken Place in the
Greatest State in the Union.

The Product of the Scissors, the Pen and a Little Actual Labor

A sorority at Missouri University has adopted a French war orphan.

The Tarkio public library now boasts of having more than 6,000 volumes on its shelves.

Miss Maggie Swope, 60 years old, was burned to death in her home, ten miles northeast of Warrensburg Friday morning.

H. C. Grove, druggist and manager of the Western Union at Glasgow, has occupied the same chair at the telegraph instrument for the past thirty-five years.

Art certainly is "on the bum" in Jefferson City. A movement is on foot there to convert a theater into an overall factory.

Harry M. Rubey, in a letter received from him from Douglas, Wyo., announces his withdrawal as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for congress in the First district.

James Connors, 100 years old, died at Brookfield one day last week. He had lived there more than sixty years. He assisted in building the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad.

Among the liabilities listed by a farmer of Merwin, who recently went into bankruptcy, was \$15 for fifteen years' subscription to a paper published at Butler.

For once the cigarette smoker is exonerated. The recent fire that for a time threatened the destruction of Cedar City, started from a spark from a pipe.

At the April term of circuit court in Douglas county twenty-eight divorce cases were on the docket. And yet they sneer at Douglas county for not having railroads!

The Horne Zoological company of near Independence has bought a herd of buffalo from Frank Rockefeller at Belvidere, Kans., and added the purchase to its collection of animals.

Mrs. H. F. Simrall of Liberty has a violin 150 years old. The old fiddle was made in Cremona, Italy, in 1766, and pronounced by experts to be a genuine tyro Strad instrument, supposedly made by Stradivarius, the greatest of all Italian violin makers.

It is getting so up in Mercer county that every time you kill anyone you get into trouble over it. A farmer who shot and killed a neighbor must

not only pay a fine of \$100, but spend three months in jail.

At Montgomery City, the recently elected city marshal, city collector and an alderman will lose their victory and cannot be sworn into office, because they were delinquent on the tax books when elected. The city marshal-elect of Fulton also cannot qualify because of a like delinquency.

Bolivar lost its largest family the other day when the J. L. Farrans moved to Kansas. Mr. Farran purchased nine full-fare tickets, five half-fare tickets, and two members of the family were under the railroad age limit.

For some time past, several business men at Novinger have been planning to establish there a factory for making gun stocks. It is now reported that a big foreign contract has been closed and that work will be begun on the factory in a few weeks.

The unexpected happened at Kirksville when thieves stole from the site of the Chi Delta fraternity house an icebox weighing, according to the Express, as much as a piano. The theft was in the night and the miscreants used a wagon to remove their loot.

Through the efforts of Col. A. A. Hulet of the Webb City commercial club, 60,000 bass have been put in Center creek near there in the last two years. Ten thousand baby trout will be distributed in streams near Webb City within the next few days.

When a mysterious stranger, "with a businesslike appearance," came snooping about Drury college headquarters at Springfield, the other day, wise ones saw in the incident a move on the part of Joplin to alienate the affections of the institution and have it moved to "the city that jack built."

Earl McClellan exhibited eight young wolves in the Grant City Times office last Wednesday night, which he had caught near his home. The mother wolf had made her nest under the roots of a tree on the side of a branch, and it took but little digging to find the young ones. Twelve young wolves were also recently caught on the John Boedecker farm near Parnell.

A Schuyler county man is in a quandary. Remembering two dreams he had the other night, he consulted a dream book for their interpretation. One of the dreams meant that the dreamer would be wed within six months. The other dream was a

warning that his death was near at hand.

A Fulton man lost a gun and advertised for its return. He had lent it to someone and forgotten to whom. The day after the advertisement appeared the gun was returned by an apologetic borrower, and before the day was over two other borrowed guns had been offered him, the borrowers having forgotten where they got them.

Fayette feels the distinction of having once been the home of a former wife of the bandit, Villa. When a resident of Howard county she was the wife of a minister, who later died at Moberly. The widow then may be said to have begun a matrimonial career, she having twice married before she became the bandit's bride, only to be put aside later for a younger and prettier woman.

When Mayor Faris at Richmond named a man for city surveyor, about a year ago, the council refused to confirm his choice. The mayor named no one else, so the town was lacking one officer. Recently a compromise was effected and the mayor sent over another name. The nominee was confirmed by the council, but declined the office.

Jinks Barksdale of Slater is exhibiting to his friends the full dress coat worn by his ancestor, Capt. Jonathan Barksdale, at his wedding, Dec. 2, 1764. The coat is of blue broadcloth with gold inlaid buttons, and a close examination shows, inside a pocket, the price tag indicating that the tailors received \$50 for making it.

Run over by a passenger train, 12-year-old Lawrence McKinney of Brookfield owes his life to presence of mind; for when caught on the Yellow creek bridge he threw himself between the rails and stayed there until the train passed. A rod under one of the cars tore the boy's sweater but he was uninjured save for a nervous shock, from which he is recovering.

Boys being "bound out" as apprentices are far from the usual order these days, but a document of such nature was filed in Linn county recently. By the terms of the instrument the parents of a boy, now little more than 3 years old, apprentice him to a farmer who agrees to give his ward a thorough course in the science of agriculture and when he has reached maturity to supply him with a Bible, two \$25 suits of clothes, a horse, bridle and saddle.

It is generally thought that Mound City has the distinction of having the oldest citizen in the county, in the person of Mrs. Jane Glenn, mother of R. C. Glenn and with whom she has made her home since the death of her husband, John Glenn some sixteen years ago. On last Saturday, April 15, Mrs. Glenn was 99 years old.

She is quite strong, being about the house each day, has good eyesight, hearing fine and intellect unimpaired. She knits and does other hand work as she feels like it, and can receive her children and grandchildren most every day.

A speed record in dealing out justice was made by Judge E. S. Gantt at his first term of court held in Warren county. A man who at 11 o'clock in the morning stole \$11 was arrested at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and two hours later was under a two-year sentence for the offense. Judge Gantt was appointed to the bench to fill the unexpired term of the late Judge James D. Barnett of the Eleventh circuit.

Thursday morning, shortly after 12 o'clock, two strangers entered the office at the Laclede depot, and drawing pistols, ordered the night operator and a friend with him to hold up their hands. The request was complied with, and the robbers took about \$14 of company money from the cash drawer. Then, marching the operator and his companion to a field near the depot, the robbers made another search of their victims and took the last 30 cents the operator had, after which the victims were told to run. Again they obeyed orders, and that was the last they saw of the men with the guns.

In the death of James Shoecraft, Sr., Tarkio has lost one of its earliest settlers and its oldest citizens. Forty-six years ago, with his friend, George Reed, he came to Atchison county and located at York on uncultivated prairie. Prairie chickens were yet abundant and deer were common, while at night the howl of wolves could frequently be heard. It was indeed a wild country into which he came almost half a century ago.

This his experience with the self-starting scissors and the single cylinder paste pot of the Hartsburg Truth does not qualify him to fool around with motor cars is the conclusion reached by F. P. Griffin, editor of the Hartsburg Truth. Mr. Griffin attempted to fill the tank of a neighbor's car with gasoline. In his self-imposed task he spilled gasoline on his clothing and then quite inadvertently set himself afire. Prompt action alone saved him from serious injuries, and as he strolled homeward in a borrowed horse blanket he was heard to murmur, "Never again."

As a result of a stubborn determination of Emmett Ball, postmaster at Seibert, not to affix and cancel a 5-cent stamp, the postoffice at Seibert, Dade county, was erased from the postal map March 31. Notice that the office was discontinued was received from the postoffice department at offices in that district. The cause of the row was the receipt by Ball of his bond with a request that it be renewed. Ball renewed the bond without the stamp. It was sent back and forth many times, but each time Ball refused to comply with the federal regulations for his job, and the government closed the office.

Taking a gambling chance, an Excelsior Springs man bid in at auction a locked suitcase sold to satisfy its departed owner's unpaid board bill. The investor paid \$5 for his investment, which invoiced one horseshoe, one pair of low shoes, several collars and a suit of underwear.

An estate that has been in the probate court of Carroll county fifty-three years is on the docket for final settlement at the May term of court. The decedent died in 1863. His widow, the administratrix, is now 90 years old and lives in Colorado. She and a son will receive the entire amount of a Civil war claim paid the estate a few weeks ago.

When the O. K. conductor at Pattonsburg investigated a car loaded with household goods, etc., he made a gruesome discovery. The body of the occupant of the car was found hanging to the roof, a piece of baling wire with a loop in the end in which he had placed his neck having been used to strangle himself to death. The indications were that he had been dead about twelve hours. Investigation of his papers showed that his name was C. R. Renfrow and that he was enroute from Lipton, Wyoming, to Brimmon, Mo. He was about 40 years of age. The car was taken up by the O. K. road from the Burlington railroad at Osborn. The car contained household goods, farming implements and several head of live stock.

A Shelby county man had been meditating for some time, trying to get up courage enough to go to a dentist and have five troublesome teeth extracted. He was knocked down by a motor car the other day and all five of the teeth were knocked out. His avowed intention of having the teeth pulled lessens his chances for getting damages for the accident.

WHITEFORD'S STATEMENT (Continued from Page One)

"Again the two old members of the present board voted to require the schools to change the grading system and go back to the percentage system, which had been abandoned years ago. These gentlemen have insisted on the appointment of teachers contrary to my judgment and advice, in one instance I was asked by Mr. Motter to recommend a teacher whose rank in scholarship as determined by the examination was twentieth, and no reason was given for the request."

"Rare insight"
"The board admits that members are not competent to pass on the qualifications of teachers, but this has never been recognized. They have insisted on their right to pass upon teachers, the grading system and the textbooks to be used. I agree that the superintendent, supervisors and principals, who have given years of faithful study to these problems, are more competent for this than the board members. The admission that the superintendent should be unhampered would have been welcomed by me some time ago. After admitting their inability to select teachers, they assume the responsibility of selecting a superintendent in a very short time. I am reliably informed that my successor was invited here by a board member to consider the principalship of Central high school, and soon after his arrival they discovered his special fitness to be head of the schools. Such insight is rare, and seems a gift of the legal fraternity."

"The day after the election Mr. Motter met me at the entrance of the library and asked me if I had heard that he was against me. I told him that I had. He said that he wished to deny anything of the kind. He said that, while he should like to see some change made, that my work was highly satisfactory to him. At no time has the board even suggested that my services were not satisfactory. I was elected unanimously by every board up to the present time. If they had hinted that the time had come for a change, I would have relieved them of all annoyance in the matter, as I have had several opportunities to secure appointment elsewhere."

"Doctor Cronkite was in my office Friday evening of last week and stated that he had been misled by the old members of the board; that Mr. Dolman had turned against his own party, and that he proposed to resign. Under the circumstances I did not expect to see his name on the published statement."

High Place of St. Joseph Schools
"I have wondered why these gentlemen did not make an issue of this matter before election. In my judgment, the confidence the people had in the old board and the administration of the schools had much to do with carrying the last bond issue. I again wish to say that the schools of St. Joseph measure up to the best in the country, that the work of the teachers is unified and that the spirit is excellent, as has been commented on time and again by visitors from all parts of the state at the two great teachers' association which have been held here."

"They state that politics is to be kept out of the schools, yet two Democratic members stated to me that they were active participants in the convention held at the courthouse, while one of the other gentlemen did service for his party in the 'late unpleasantness.' At no time was the fact brought out that either of these men had children in school, were devoted to the cause of public education and had any special qualification fitting them for the office of school director. I should like to ask the three attorneys to compare their standing as lawyers with my standing as an educator. Before coming here I had been advanced to the highest position in the councils of the teachers of the state of Missouri and have been honored by them on several occasions since. Have either of these gentlemen headed the state bar association or even the local bar association?"
"As my integrity is vouched for by the board, I am sure the public will be interested in getting the facts."

"J. A. WHITEFORD."

Bert Babson, a character well known to nearly all the business men of this city, died Wednesday at the home of his brother-in-law, in Blackton, Iowa. Babson once owned the St. Joseph ball team in 1903.

Frank Boder was chosen manager of the new Morris Plan bank at a meeting of the executive committee Wednesday. Mr. Boder was connected with the First National bank.

The welfare board has issued a report requesting more money, a fully equipped dispensary, adequate quarters for the offices, a paid visiting nurse, a full time employment secretary, an additional investigator, a loan fund, and in addition, an appropriation to cover a \$2,424 deficit of last year.

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